

Education Council

Terms of Reference

Purpose:

The NOAA Education Council discusses NOAA-wide education-related policy matters and makes recommendations on education matters to NOAA leadership.

Membership:

Council members represent NOAA's Line Offices, Staff Offices, and program offices, including special representation for Offices whose education activities are specifically authorized by statute.

Those activities include:

Educational Partnership Program with Minority-Serving Institutions.

National Marine Sanctuary Program

National Sea Grant Program

National Estuarine Research Reserve Program

Ocean Exploration Program

Corals Program

Council members are appointed by the heads of Line Offices or Staff Offices. The Director of Education chairs the Council. The NOAA Central Library, the Office of Program Planning and Integration and the Office of Program Analysis and Evaluation are included as *ex officio* members.

Roles and Responsibilities:

NOAA's Office of Education serves as the Secretariat for the NOAA Education Council by scheduling meetings, developing agendas based on input from Council members and keeping records of proceedings.

The Council meets monthly, or as needed.

The Council may authorize the formation of task-specific working groups, using volunteers from all parts of NOAA to collaborate on education projects, programs and related activities.

Decision Making Process:

Decisions will be accomplished by informed consensus. The Chair will strive for consensus on every issue, but because the chair maintains 51% of the vote, the final decision is made by the Chair when consensus is not achieved.

Charter:

The NOAA Education Council is the primary forum in the agency for the discussion of ideas and proposals for NOAA-wide education and outreach activities and priorities. In

conjunction with NOAA's Office of Education, the Council also monitors the implementation of NOAA's Strategic Plan for Education and makes recommendations to NOAA management on all aspects of NOAA's educational activities.

The human and financial resources required to operate the Council are drawn entirely from the approved budget of the Office of Education.

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